

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 9-13 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1-8, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed portions units capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

a storage section which stores predetermined size information and index number information indicating the number of index sheets per set of on a paper sheet set in each paper feed portion; and unit in a case where index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed units; and

a control section which performs processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from a first paper feed unit to a second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to a third paper feed unit in a case where index sheets set in the first paper feed unit are run out, wherein the size information and the index number information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information and the index number information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit, portion between the plurality of paper feed portions on the basis of the predetermined information stored in said storage section;

wherein when index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed portions and pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the paper feed portions coincide with each other, said control section controls the paper feed portions so as to perform change processing between the plurality of paper feed portions in which index sheets are set, and when the pieces of predetermined information do not coincide with each other, controls the paper feed portions so as not to perform change processing.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined information stored in said storage section stores includes information on a size and a type information indicating a type of the paper sheet set in the paper feed unit, portion, and when the paper type is an index sheet, information on the number of index portions and/or a shape of the index portion is further stored.

wherein the type information of the first paper feed unit coincides with those of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information, the index number information and the type information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage section stores index shape information indicating a shape of the index portion of the paper sheet set in the paper feed units,

wherein the index shape information of the first paper feed unit coincides with that of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information, the index number information and the index shape information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit, 2, further comprising an index sheet setting section which sets the information on the number of index portions and/or the shape of the index portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises a paper feed portion unit change setting section which sets determines whether to automatically enable paper feed portion unit change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed portions units and sets a unit change setting in accordance with the determination result, and

wherein the unit change setting section sets the unit change setting to automatically enable change processing for the second paper feed unit, and when said paper feed portion change setting section performs a setting which permits paper feed portion change processing for the paper feed portions in which the index sheets are set, but the pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the plurality of paper feed portions are determined not to coincide with each other, said control section controls the paper feed portion so as not to perform change processing.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of paper feed portions unit capable of setting index sheets, comprising:

a storage step of storing size predetermined information and index number information indicating the number of index sheets per set on a paper sheet set in each paper feed portion; and unit in a case where the index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed units; and

a control step of performing processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit to be used from a first paper feed unit to a second paper feed unit and does not perform processing of automatically changing the paper feed unit from the first paper feed unit to a third paper feed unit in a case where index sheets set in the first paper feed unit are run out,

wherein the size information and the index number information of the first paper feed unit coincide with those of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information and the index number information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit, portion between the plurality of paper feed portions on the basis of the predetermined information stored in the storage step;

wherein in the control step, when index sheets are set in the plurality of paper feed portions and pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the paper feed portions coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are so controlled as to perform change processing between the plurality of paper feed portions in which index sheets are set; and when the pieces of predetermined information do not coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are so controlled as not to perform change processing.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined information stored in the storage step stores includes information on a size and a type information indicating a type of the paper sheet set in the paper feed unit, portion, and when the paper type is an index sheet, information on the number of index portions and/or a shape of the index portion is further stored:

wherein the type information of the first paper feed unit coincides with those of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information, the index number information and the type information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising an index sheet setting step of setting the information on the number of index portions and/or the shape of the index portion: wherein said storage section stores index shape information indicating a shape of the index portion of the paper sheet set in the paper feed units,

wherein the index shape information of the first paper feed unit coincides with that of the second paper feed unit, and

wherein at least one of the size information, the index number information and the index shape information of the first paper feed unit do not coincide with those of the third paper feed unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the control method further comprises a paper feed portion unit change setting step of setting determining whether to automatically enable paper feed portion unit change processing for each of the plurality of paper feed units and sets a unit change setting in accordance with the determination result, and

wherein the unit change setting section sets the unit change setting to automatically enable change processing for the second paper feed unit portions; and when a setting which permits paper feed portion change processing for the paper feed portions in which the index sheets are set is performed in the paper feed portion change setting step, but the pieces of predetermined information on the index sheets set in the plurality of paper feed portions are determined not to coincide with each other, the paper feed portions are controlled in the control step so as not to perform change processing.

9-13. (Cancelled)